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WIND EROSION IN THE GREAT PLAINS

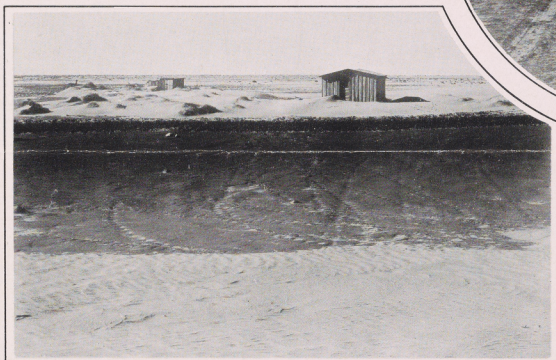
High winds throughout the Great Plains region cause severe erosion on unprotected farm and grazing lands. The effects may be seen in the form of eroded fields and pastures, and abandoned land and farm homes. Excessive soil erosion by wind can be controlled by proper land use and soil and water conservation practices.



A dust storm at the point of origin. Crop failures during drought years leave thousands of acres of cultivated land in the Great Plains exposed to eroding winds.



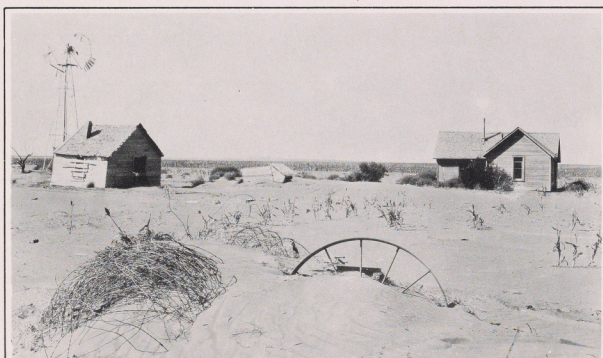
In May 1935, black dust clouds darkened eastern skies. Rich topsoil blown from the Great Plains enveloped the Nation's Capital.



Accumulations of wind-blown soil from adjacent fields form hummocks of sand and coarse soil on formerly productive cropland. The finer particles of topsoil may be blown to a great distance.



Erosion spreading from a cultivated field to an adjoining pasture. The pasture also becomes an erosion hazard when the grass has been smothered by dust.



Abandoned and dust-covered farm buildings and machinery are not unusual sights in some sections of the Great Plains. This farm home was formerly occupied by the operator of a 640-acre farm.



Erosion and drought have damaged or destroyed much of the range resources of the Plains during recent years. This pasture once was covered with a thick growth of nutritious short grass.